

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students**

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid Covid-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests in school.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme. Please contact Mr Andy Allen, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing. Please also see the clip on [YouTube](#) for a step-by-step guide to carrying out a home test.

We will be sending home Covid-19 testing kits with your child following their final supervised test during this week. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart. We are recommending a test on Sunday and Wednesday evening which is also in line when we ask our staff to conduct their tests**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for the Easter holiday before term ends.

Please note that this does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

### **Reporting results**

It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. This is easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

It is also important to share your child's results with the school. The link for informing us of your result [can be accessed here](#) . For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice on our website: <http://www.carres.uk/site/page.asp?id=1283>

which is signed by our Data Protection Officer stating how we will ensure security of this data.

### **Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week**

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available

- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours faithfully

**N M Law**  
Headteacher

## **Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What type of tests will be used?**

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of Covid-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

### **Are LFD tests accurate?**

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect Covid-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

### **How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?**

There are two main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results in 30 minutes after taking the test.

### **How will personal information and test results be shared?**

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

They need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- their name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result.

Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When a person reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC, who may then share the information with a GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research Covid-19, and improve understanding of the virus.